



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5538

LCO No. 1900

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) The Department of
2 Higher Education shall collaborate with the Department of Education,
3 the regional community-technical colleges and four-year institutions of
4 higher education that offer teacher preparation programs, to design
5 programs to allow community-technical college students who are
6 interested in pursuing teaching careers to enter teacher preparation
7 programs at four-year institutions upon completion of their
8 community-technical college programs. Under the programs, a student
9 shall be jointly accepted for admission by the community-technical
10 college and the four-year institution, provided actual admission to the
11 four-year institution shall be subject to successful completion of the
12 community-technical college program. The programs shall include a
13 counseling component.

14 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall provide, within
15 available appropriations, up to six grants of seventy-five thousand
16 dollars each to joint community-technical college and four-year
17 institution teams for use over a two-year period to establish programs

18 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Grant funds shall be used for
19 (1) program articulation agreements between the constituent units of
20 higher education and between the community-technical colleges and
21 independent four-year institutions of higher education that offer
22 teacher preparation programs, (2) student outreach, especially for
23 minority candidates, (3) preparation for the certification examination,
24 and (4) counseling. Articulation agreements entered into for purposes
25 of this section shall be similar to the articulation agreements for the
26 College of Technology.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) The Department of Higher
28 Education, in collaboration with the Board for State Academic Awards,
29 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to prepare
30 paraprofessionals who have been successful in the classroom for
31 teaching careers. Under the program, the department shall provide
32 scholarships to paraprofessionals employed by priority school districts
33 pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, as amended, who
34 seek to become certified teachers in shortage subject areas pursuant to
35 section 10-8b of the general statutes.

36 (b) The scholarships shall not exceed (1) three thousand dollars per
37 year, and (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution
38 of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend. A
39 paraprofessional may receive up to five annual scholarships. The
40 department shall establish criteria for paraprofessionals for
41 participation in the program and procedures for the repayment of the
42 amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to this section if the
43 paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school district in a
44 shortage subject area upon completion of the program.

45 (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall identify
46 institutions of higher education to provide the necessary teacher
47 training for the program. Each priority school district shall select
48 paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the criteria
49 established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this

50 section and in consultation with the institutions of higher education.

51 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an
52 employee of a local or regional board of education who does not
53 possess a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who
54 serves as an instructional assistant for such local or regional board of
55 education.

56 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Board of Governors of
57 Higher Education, within available appropriations, shall establish a
58 program to provide grants to assist teachers in paying off their
59 education loans. The board of governors shall limit participation in the
60 program to teachers who are employed by local and regional boards of
61 education and who (1) teach in subject or geographic shortage areas
62 pursuant to section 10-8b of the general statutes, (2) teach in priority
63 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, as
64 amended, or transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c of
65 the general statutes, as amended, or (3) are minorities. A teacher may
66 receive more than one grant if such teacher qualifies under more than
67 one category pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this
68 section, provided the total amount of such grants does not exceed the
69 total amount of the teacher's loans. No grant shall exceed two
70 thousand five hundred dollars. Teachers shall apply, annually, for
71 grants at such time and on such forms as the Commissioner of Higher
72 Education prescribes. For purposes of this section, "minorities" means
73 those whose racial ancestry is defined as other than white by the
74 Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

75 Sec. 4. Section 10-155d of the general statutes, as amended by
76 section 6 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and
77 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

78 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall encourage
79 and support experimentation and research in the preparation of
80 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools. To help fulfill
81 the purposes of this section, the Board of Governors of Higher

82 Education shall appoint an advisory council composed of qualified
83 professionals which shall render assistance and advice to the board. In
84 carrying out its activities pursuant to this section, the board shall
85 consult with the State Board of Education and such other agencies as it
86 deems appropriate to assure coordination of all activities of the state
87 relating to the preparation of teachers for public elementary and
88 secondary schools.

89 (b) The Department of Higher Education, with the approval of the
90 Commissioner of Education, shall expand, within available
91 appropriations, participation in its summer alternate route to
92 certification program to five hundred students per year and its week-
93 end and evening alternate route to certification program to one
94 hundred twenty-five students per year. The department shall expand
95 the week-end and evening program for participants seeking
96 certification in a subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b. The
97 department, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall
98 develop (1) regional alternate route to certification programs targeted
99 to the subject shortage areas, and (2) an alternate route to certification
100 program for former teachers whose certificates have expired and who
101 are interested in resuming their teaching careers.

102 (c) The Departments of Higher Education and Education and the
103 regional educational service centers shall contract, within available
104 appropriations, with institutions of higher education or other
105 education entities to provide on-line test preparation classes for the
106 teacher certification examination.

107 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Higher
108 Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall
109 establish, within available appropriations, a pilot alternate route to
110 certification program for school administrators. The program shall
111 include mentored apprenticeships.

112 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) Notwithstanding subsection (b)
113 of section 10-183g of the general statutes, on and after July 1, 2002,

114 retirement benefits shall not be prorated and persons age sixty and
115 older who have ten years or more of service as a teacher in Connecticut
116 shall receive normal retirement benefits computed in accordance with
117 subsection (a) of section 10-183g of the general statutes.

118 Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
119 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
120 *1, 2002*):

121 (d) The [state] Department of Education may fund, within available
122 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
123 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
124 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special
125 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at
126 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the
127 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes
128 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school
129 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,
130 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut
131 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut
132 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and
133 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and
134 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education
135 and certified teachers at such private special education and other
136 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning
137 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning
138 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to
139 mentors and assessors. [Funds available under this subsection shall be
140 paid directly to school districts] The department shall pay mentors
141 stipends of five hundred dollars per school year and shall use any
142 remaining funds to pay school districts directly for the provision of
143 substitute teachers when cooperating teachers, teacher mentors,
144 beginning teachers and assessors are released from regular classroom
145 responsibilities and for the provision of professional development
146 activities for cooperating and student teachers, teacher mentors,

147 assessors and beginning teachers. The cooperating teacher and
148 beginning teacher support and assessment programs shall operate in
149 accordance with regulations which shall be adopted by the State Board
150 of Education pursuant to chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed
151 with trained cooperating teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate
152 in a beginning teacher support and assessment program as made
153 available by the board. School districts shall be responsible for
154 providing support to beginning teachers which shall include, but not
155 be limited to, the placement of beginning teachers with trained teacher
156 mentors who may be full or part-time teachers in the same or a
157 different building than the beginning teacher and provision of trained
158 assessors to conduct assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating
159 teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in
160 more than one capacity and may be assigned more than one student
161 teacher or beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of
162 each beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data
163 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an
164 assessment instrument. [Notwithstanding any regulation to the
165 contrary, the State Board of Education may require less than six
166 observations as part of such assessment for the fiscal year ending June
167 30, 1992, and may establish different assessment standards for use
168 during such fiscal year.] Notwithstanding any regulation to the
169 contrary, a beginning teacher need not be assessed by a certified
170 teacher who holds a certification endorsement in the same general
171 subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and
172 teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and
173 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by
174 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and
175 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and
176 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible
177 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to
178 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,
179 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed
180 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations

181 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience
182 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-
183 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, as amended, shall not be applicable to the
184 selection, placement and compensation of persons participating in the
185 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment
186 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours
187 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect
188 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,
189 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in
190 such capacity.

191 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) The Department of
192 Education shall establish, within available appropriations, a program
193 to provide three-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to beginning teachers
194 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
195 statutes, as amended. Teachers shall be eligible for the bonus for the
196 first year they teach in such a district. The department shall provide
197 funds to each priority school district to increase the salary of eligible
198 teachers.

199 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education
200 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide
201 five-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to teachers (1) who agree to teach
202 a minimum of three years in a school on the list of schools in need of
203 improvement pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, as
204 amended, or (2) in shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of
205 the general statutes.

206 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Commissioner of
207 Education shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
208 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the
209 waiving of the fees for teacher certification examinations administered
210 by the department. The commissioner shall waive the fee for any
211 candidate who meets such criteria.

212 Sec. 11. Subsection (c) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is

213 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
214 *1, 2002*):

215 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and section 10-
216 145b, as amended, the following persons shall be eligible for a
217 nonrenewable temporary certificate: (1) A person who has resided in a
218 state other than Connecticut during the year immediately preceding
219 application for certification in Connecticut and meets the requirements
220 for certification, excluding successful completion of the competency
221 examination and subject matter assessment, if such person holds
222 current teacher certification in a state other than Connecticut and has
223 completed at least one year of successful teaching in another state in a
224 public school or a nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state
225 board of education, (2) a person who has graduated from a teacher
226 preparation program at a college or university outside of the state and
227 regionally accredited, and meets the requirements for certification,
228 excluding successful completion of the competency examination and
229 subject matter assessment, [and] (3) a person hired by a charter school
230 after July first in any school year for a teaching position that school
231 year, provided the person hired after said date could reasonably be
232 expected to complete the requirements prescribed in subparagraphs
233 (B) and (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-145b, by
234 the commencement of the school year following the school year in
235 which such person held such temporary certificate, and (4) a person
236 hired to teach in a subject or geographic shortage area pursuant to
237 section 10-86 who (1) has successfully completed the competency
238 examination or has achieved a combined score of one thousand or
239 more on a Scholastic Aptitude Test administered on or before March
240 31, 1995, or a combined score of eleven hundred or more on a
241 Scholastic Aptitude Test administered on or after April 1, 1995, and (2)
242 has five years of successful teaching experience in a related subject
243 area, (A) in this state in a nonpublic school approved by the
244 Department of Education, (B) in another state in a public school or a
245 nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of
246 education, (C) at a public or private institution of higher education

247 accredited by the Department of Higher Education, or (D) at a public
 248 or private institution of higher education in another state that is
 249 regionally accredited. The nonrenewable temporary certificate shall be
 250 valid for one year from the date it is issued. Any board of education
 251 employing a person who holds a nonrenewable temporary certificate
 252 issued pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection
 253 shall provide a program to assist each such person who has not
 254 successfully completed the competency examination by January
 255 fifteenth of the school year in which such certificate was issued. Said
 256 program, developed in consultation with the [state] Department of
 257 Education, shall include academic and classroom support service
 258 components. Each such person who does not successfully complete
 259 said examination by said January fifteenth shall participate in said
 260 program.

261 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is
 262 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 263 *1, 2002*):

264 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this
 265 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of
 266 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this
 267 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a
 268 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the
 269 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each
 270 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided
 271 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such
 272 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;
 273 and for any member receiving certification through an alternate route
 274 program approved by the State Board of Education, up to one year for
 275 each three years of service of active full-time service as a Connecticut
 276 teacher and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service
 277 described in this subsection. In no event, however, may any service
 278 described in this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or
 279 is, or will become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon

280 such service from any governmental system other than the teachers'
281 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional
282 credited service includes:

283 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents
284 established by the United States Department of Defense;

285 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its
286 territories or possessions;

287 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
288 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
289 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

290 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

291 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July
292 1, 1965;

293 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North
294 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

295 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to
296 September 1, 1948;

297 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted
298 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least
299 one school year;

300 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the
301 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington
302 Children's Hospital;

303 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the
304 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public
305 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,
306 provided twenty days of such service shall equal one month of
307 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

308 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than
309 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed
310 thirty months;

311 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any
312 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or
313 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least
314 one school year;

315 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the
316 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

317 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

318 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education
319 shall establish a summer camp for high school students interested in
320 the teaching profession. Such camp shall begin operation in June, 2003.

321 Sec. 14. (*Effective from passage*) The Teachers' Retirement Board
322 pursuant to section 10-183l of the general statutes, as amended, shall
323 develop a plan for an alternate retirement system for teachers, as
324 defined in section 10-183b of the general statutes. Such plan shall be
325 available to teachers who on or after July 1, 2003, are first hired by any
326 school district in this state and are employed for an average of at least
327 one-half of each school day. Such plan shall be similar to that
328 developed for eligible unclassified employees of the constituent units
329 of the state system of higher education and the central office staff of
330 the Department of Higher Education pursuant to subsection (c) of
331 section 5-155a of the general statutes. Such plan shall be portable,
332 include provisions concerning matching by the state and include a
333 plan of implementation that requires authorization of participation no
334 later than July 1, 2003. Not later than January 1, 2003, the Teachers'
335 Retirement Board shall report its plan to the joint standing committee
336 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
337 education.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To implement some of the recommendations of the Commission on the Teacher and School Administrator Shortage and Minority Recruitment. To establish programs to improve the level of compensation for teachers in priority school districts, teachers in schools on the list of schools in need of improvement and teachers in subject shortage areas. To waive the fees for certification examinations for candidates who meet criteria specified by the department. To expand the group of persons that may receive a nonrenewable temporary certificate. To allow teachers certified through an alternate route to purchase an additional year of service for each three years of service. To establish a summer camp for high school students interested in the teaching profession. To require the Teachers' Retirement Board to develop a plan allowing for an alternate retirement plan for teachers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]